

# Lectotypification of *Herminium gracile* G.King & R.Pantling (Orchidaceae)<sup>a</sup>

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## Abstract

A lectotype is selected for *Herminium gracile* G.King & R.Pantling in the present communication. An image of the selected lectotype is also provided.

## Résumé

Lectotypification de *Herminium gracile* G.King & R.Pantling (Orchidaceae) – Un lectotype est choisi pour *Herminium gracile*. Une photographie de ce lectotype est proposée.

**H***erminium gracile* G.King & R.Pantling [ $\equiv$  *Androcorys gracilis* (G.King & R.Pantling) Schlechter], a terrestrial orchid belonging to the family Orchidaceae (Orchidoideae: Orchideae: Orchidinae), was first described by King & Pantling (1896) based on Pantling's collection (no. 397) from Lachen Valley, Sikkim, India. King & Pantling (1896) did not indicate any particular specimen as holotype because it was not mandatory/practice to validate a name during those days and therefore all specimens of *H. gracile* collected from Lachen Valley, Sikkim, with 'Pantling 397' (collection number) were syntypes. It was practice of Pantling that he used same collection number for any particular species; in this case he used 'Pantling 397' for *Herminium gracile*, irrespective of their locality and date of collection.

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Pearce & Cribb (2002) mentioned Pantling's collections 374 A (from Chumbi Valley, China; CAL, K) and 374 B (Singalila, Sikkim; CAL, K) as syntypes which was erroneous as King & Pantling (1896) did not cite 'Pantling 374 A/B' in the protologue of *H. gracile*. King & Pantling (1898) used 'Pantling 374 (A/B)' for a different name – *Herminium pugioniforme* Lindley ex J.D.Hooker [= *Androcorys pugioniformis* (Lindley ex J.D.Hooker) K.Y.Lang]. Therefore, the specimens mentioned by Pearce & Cribb as syntypes (Pantling 374 A and B) do not belong to the original material of *H. gracile*.

During our study we have found that Pantling collected *H. gracile* twice – once from 'Lachen Valley' in 1895, i.e. before describing *H. gracile* and again in 1896 from 'Singalelah Range'. It is clear from the introductory part of the 'Vol. 65' of *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Part 2, Natural History* that the pages from 57 to 300 were published/issued in July, 1896. Therefore, the specimens (Pantling 397; CAL, E, K) collected in July, 1896 by Pantling are not tenable as original material of *H. gracile* because – i) most possibly these were collected after describing *H. gracile*, and ii) the collection locality – Singalelah/Singalila – is not mentioned in the protologue.

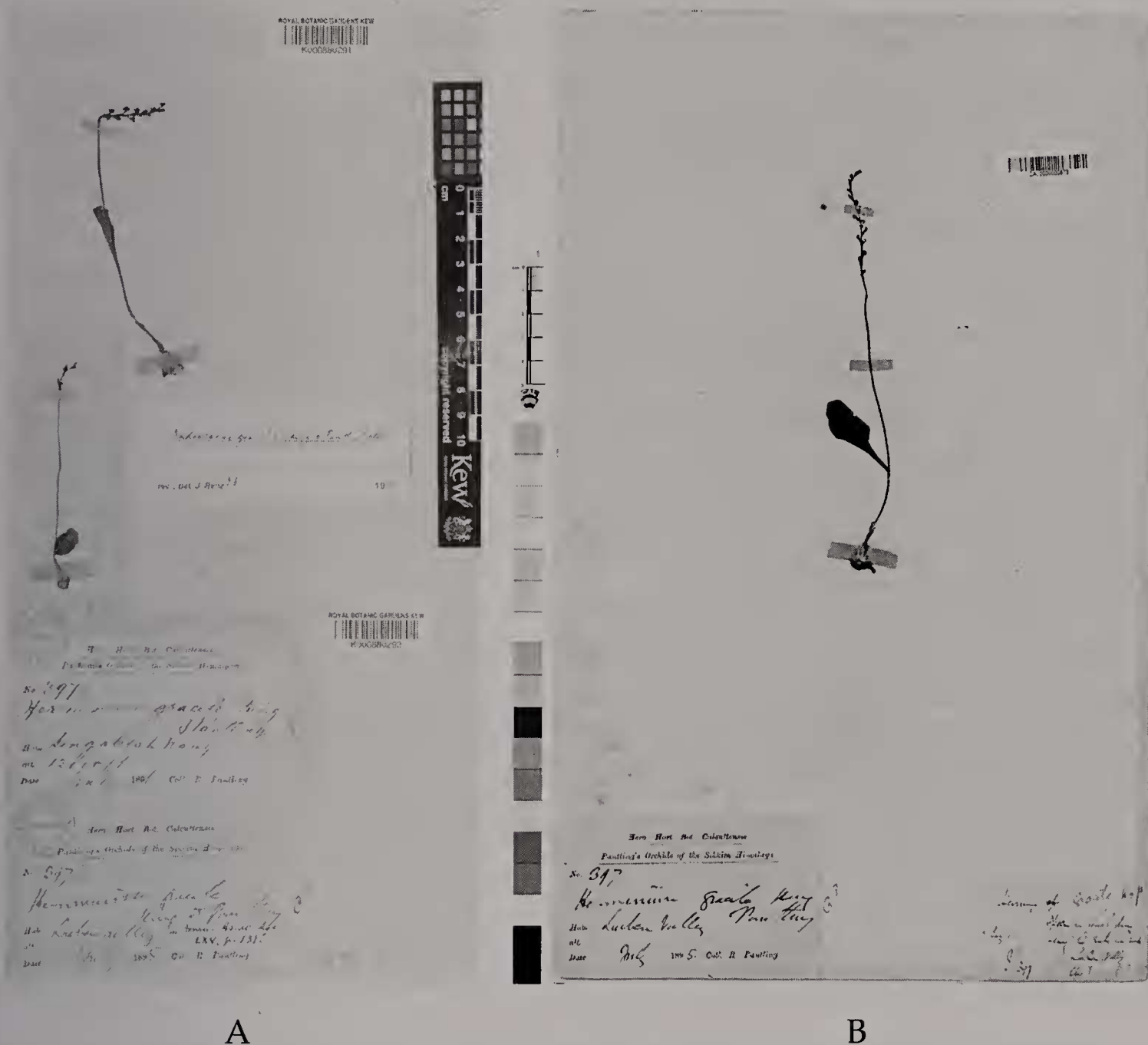
We have traced a herbarium-sheet (Fig. 1A) at K with two plants mounted on it. The specimen mounted at the top (K000880291, collected from Lachen Valley) is a syntype (now isolectotype), whereas the specimen (K000880292, collected from Singalelah Range) mounted below is not a part of the original material of *H. gracile*. We have further traced three more syntypes at CAL. The specimen with barcode no. 'CAL0000000673' has Pantling's hand-written notes (including the draft-description) on *H. gracile* and also with an additional label which indicate that the first description of *H. gracile* was made mainly based on this CAL-specimen. Further, the CAL-specimen is a complete specimen and also fits with the description provided in the protologue. Therefore, according to the Art. 9.2 and 9.11 of Melbourne Code (2012), we are designating the CAL-specimen (Pantling 397; CAL0000000673) as lectotype (Fig. 1B) of *H. gracile*.

***Herminium gracile* G. King & R. Pantling** in *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Pt. 2, Natural History* 65: 131 (1896) & in *Annals of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta* 8: 334, t. 438 (1898). Types: Lachen Valley, July 1895, Pantling 397 [Lectotype, **designated here**: CAL! (CAL0000000673), isolectotypes: CAL! (CAL0000000671; CAL0000000672), K (K000880291), photo!]

≡ *Androcorys gracilis* (G. King & R. Pantling) F.R.R. Schlechter in *Notizblatt des Botanischen Gartens und Museums zu Berlin-Dahlem* 7: 397 (1920).

Additional specimens examined: India: West Bengal, Darjeeling district, Singalila Range, c. 3658 m, July 1896, *Pantling* 397 [CAL (CAL0000000674, CAL0000000675), E (E00003984); K (K000880292), photo].

Distribution: INDIA (Sikkim, West Bengal); BHUTAN; CHINA; NEPAL.



**Fig.1 : types of *Herminium gracile* G.King & R.Pantling**

A : K-sheet with two specimens – the specimen mounted above is an isoelectotype, whereas the specimen mounted below is not belonging to ‘original material’ of *Herminium gracile* G. King & R. Pantling [© copyright of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew]

B : Selected lectotype of *Herminium gracile* G. King & R. Pantling [*Pantling* 397, CAL (CAL0000000673); © copyright of the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah]

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